

Appln. No.: 09/963,324
Amendment Dated January 23, 2007
Reply to Office Action October 23, 2006

MATP-611US

Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-8, 10-14 and 16-18 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 9 and 15 are cancelled.

Claims 1, 3, 7-8, 13-14 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Luchaup, Kroon et al. and Chang. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this rejection.

With regard to claim 1, neither Luchaup, Kroon et al., Chang, nor their combination disclose or suggest

...v. an audio transducer for providing audio information to the operator; and

vi. a receiver for receiving feedback signals, **the feedback signals representing items in a control menu for controlling the electronic device**, the receiver operably linked to the audio transducer for **providing audio prompts, corresponding to the control menu items**, to the operator;

wherein the audio input is responsive to a further utterance representing one of the menu items. (Emphasis added).

Basis for the amendment may be found in the specification at paragraph [0026] and original claim 9. Luchaup discloses, "a user interface 17, which may include a liquid crystal display (LCD) or other components (e.g., light emission diodes, LEDs) to display or indicate the contents of the command signal 35 or to indicate the correctness of the command signal 35." (Para [0034]). The user interface of Luchaup provides feedback via an LCD or LED and allows a user to acknowledge and/or make correction, if necessary, **before forwarding a command** to an appliance. Thus, the feedback signals in Luchaup are in response to the user first forwarding a command to the electronic device **and are not fed back from the appliance**. In contrast, in the exemplary embodiment of Applicant's invention, the feedback signals are provided by the electronic device 18. (Para. [0026]).

Further, the feedback signals of Luchaup do not **represent items in a control menu for controlling the electronic device**. In contrast, the exemplary embodiment of Applicant's invention includes a receiver 21 that receives feedback signals representing items in a control menu for controlling the electronic device. The audio transducer 20 then **provides audio prompts, corresponding to the control menu items**. (Para [0026]).

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At page 12 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that Mignot et al. teaches "the utterance is translated by the relay unit into a menu navigation control parameter that causes the electronic device to navigate the displayed control menu." The menu in Mignot et al., however, is displayed on the television screen. (Col. 4, lines 16-20). The user must look at the screen to navigate the menu. That is, the system in Mignot et al. comprises means for **displaying on the said screen** a list of the words or groups of words corresponding to the functional features of the apparatus which can be accessed by voice control in a window of the screen so as to enable the user to ascertain the key words which he has to utter in order to trigger these functional features. Thus, there are no feedback signals sent back to the remote control unit. As described above, the feedback signals in Applicant's invention represent items in the control menu which are received at the remote control unit from the electronic device. The audio transducer 20 may then **provide audio prompts, corresponding to the control menu items**. This enables the user to select from the menu without viewing a display at the electronic device.

Kroon et al. provide a method of analyzing speech signals in order to reduce the computational power required to perform both speech compression and voice recognition operations. Digital speech signals are provided to a speech analyzer which generates a linear predictive coded (LPC) speech analysis signal that is compatible for use in both the voice recognition circuit and the speech compression circuit. Kroon et al. do not disclose providing **audio prompts** to a user responsive to feedback signals, as recited in claim 1.

Chang teaches a communication appliance (13) having the ability to establish telephonic communication to between the user and the advertiser receives the advertisement, extracts the embedded contact information and displays an indication that the ad is callback enabled. With the push of a single remote control (14) button, the appliance (13) is commanded to establish a telephone connection between the user and an advertiser. Chang does not, however, disclose receiving feedback signals representing items in a control menu for controlling the electronic device. Further, Chang does not disclose providing audio prompts to the operator which correspond to the control menu items.

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Because Luchaup, Kroon et al., and Chang do not disclose or suggest the features of claim 1, claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Luchaup, Kroon et al. and Chang. Claims 3 and 7-8 depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claims 3 and 7-8 are also not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Luchaup, Kroon et al. and Chang.

With regard to claims 13 and 17, claims 13 and 17, while not identical to claim 1, include features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Thus, claims 13 and 17 are also not subject to rejection for the same reasons as those set forth above with regard to claim 1. Claim 14 depends from claim 13. Accordingly, claim 14 is also not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Luchaup, Kroon et al. and Chang.

Claim 2 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Luchaup, Kroon et al., Chang and Douglas. Luchaup, Kroon et al. and Chang are described above. Douglas teaches a voice-actuated environmental operator system of the kind which enables a user/patient to use simple voice commands to control a plurality of hospital environment room functions including operation of selected bed movement and room environment functions associated with a provided multi-function hospital bed. A headset microphone assembly wearable by a patient user is provided to the system for transmitting voice input to said voice recognition means and receiving system command confirmation signals and telephone communications. The confirmation signals and telephone communications in Douglas does not include **feedback signals representing items in a control menu** for controlling the electronic device. Because Luchaup, Kroon et al., Chang and Douglas do not disclose or suggest at least this feature of claim 1, claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Luchaup, Kroon et al., Chang and Douglas.

Claims 4-6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Luchaup, Kroon et al., Chang and Mignot et al. The rejection of claim 9 is moot due to the cancellation of claim 9.

Because Luchaup, Kroon et al., Chang and Mignot et al. do not disclose or suggest the features of claim 1, claim 1 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Luchaup, Kroon et al., Chang and Mignot et al. Claims 4-6 depend from claim 1. Accordingly,

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claims 4-6 are also not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Luchaup, Kroon et al., Chang and Mignot et al.

Claims 10-12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Luchaup and Allen et al. Luchaup is described above. Allen et al. teaches a communicator/remote control which includes an integrated display screen configured to display a contact list. Each contact in the contact list includes an address, such as a network address, for establishing two-way communication with the contact. Allen et al. do not, however, disclose receiving menu data from the transmitter of the relay unit, the menu data representing items in a control menu for controlling the electronic device. Because Luchaup and Allen et al. do not disclose or suggest the features of claim 10, claim 10 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Luchaup and Allen et al. Claims 11-12 depend from claim 10. Accordingly, claims 11-12 are also not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Luchaup and Allen et al.

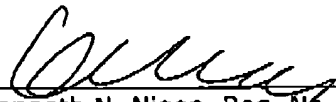
Claims 16 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Luchaup, Kroon et al., Chang and Kolde et al. Luchaup, Kroon et al. and Chang are described above. Kolde et al. teach that an icon, sharing visual characteristics with a corresponding button of a remote control, is displayed in response to an interactive option becoming available. A description of the interactive option in the language of the user may also be presented visually or audibly. The icon and description may be displayed alone or in a configuration of a map of the remote control. The description may be audibly output using voice synthesis techniques. Kolde et al., however, does not provide the features missing from Luchaup, Kroon et al. and Chang, namely, a remote control unit including a receiver for receiving feedback signals representing items in a control menu for controlling the electronic device. The audible description of the icon in Kolde et al. is provided 1) to confirm that a particular button has been pressed or 2) to enable a user to locate a button on the remote control device. Kolde et al. do not disclose or suggest providing menu items as a sequence of audible prompts.

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Because neither Luchaup, Kroon et al., Chang, Kolde et al., nor their combination disclose or suggest the features of claim 16, claim 16 is not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) in view of Luchaup, Kroon et al., Chang and Kolde et al. With regard to claim 18, claims 18, while not identical to claim 16, includes features similar to those set forth above with regard to claim 16. Thus, claim 18 is also not subject to rejection for the same reasons as those set forth above with regard to claim 16.

Respectfully submitted,


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January 23, 2007


Patricia C. Boccella

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